

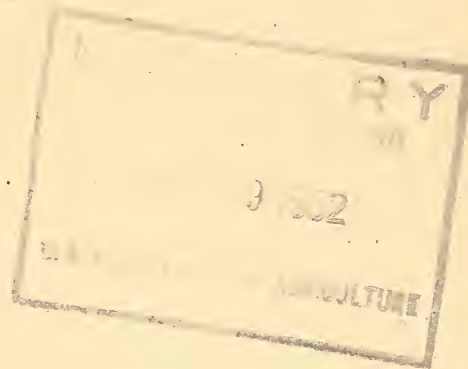
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Animal Industry

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REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE
CAMPAIGN FOR THE ERADICATION OF
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
IN MEXICO
NO. 23



Note: This report has been prepared on the basis of the best information available at the time of compilation but is subject to later revision. It covers the principal developments since the issuance of the 22nd report of March 20, 1950.

Program Enters Critical Phase

The program to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico has entered what is believed to be its most critical period. Fourth vaccinations are completed in about 30 percent of the quarantine zone and vaccine protection against the disease is wearing off in increasing numbers of animals every day. The possibility of outbreaks of active infection in these areas is to be expected and animals are watched constantly by inspection brigades, permanently assigned to specified districts. They are required to inspect every susceptible animal in each district at least once every thirty days. This increased emphasis is indicated by inspection figures reported as follows: March, 14,809,688 animals; April, 12,786,503 animals; and May, 15,221,054 animals.

The attached map indicates areas in which immunity is gradually wearing off as well as the status of continuing vaccinations.

Cessation of Vaccination Activities

Third vaccinations are being completed in the center of the quarantine zone, and fourth vaccinations will be continued---probably through July---until all areas in which foot-and-mouth disease has existed have been covered. Reduced vaccination figures of 3,388,714 animals in May can be compared with the all-time high of 5,052,811 vaccinations in January of this year.

The last vaccine was produced in Mexico on April 13, 1950, for a cumulative total of 53,124,000 doses manufactured by the Joint Mexican-United States Commission. Earlier in the program, before production facilities were provided in Mexico, a total of 1,644,619 doses of vaccine were purchased from Argentina, Switzerland, Holland, and Denmark. Thus a total of 54,768,619 doses were made available during the vaccination program. A reserve supply of about 7,500,000 doses is being held for possible emergency use.

As vaccine production units ceased operations, stringent disinfection operations were carried out in order to remove any danger of spread of infection from these sources. Buildings and equipment were thoroughly cleaned, washed, and disinfected. All residue of virus suspensions, epithelium samples, and materials which had come in direct contact with infected tissues were destroyed in a manner to prevent the escape of the virus. After these measures were completed, test animals were introduced and held for thirty days under close observation. When no symptoms of foot-and-mouth disease appeared, the animals were removed and the areas once more cleaned and disinfected before release to the original owner.

Diagnostic Tests Continued

The foot-and-mouth disease laboratory at Palo Alto, on the outskirts of Mexico City, remains in operation principally to conduct diagnostic tests on materials gathered from suspicious animals. A total of 97 such tests have been conducted since the first of the year, none of which were positive for foot-and-mouth disease. Twenty-four of the samples were positive for

vesicular stomatitis, a disease causing many of the same symptoms as foot-and-mouth. These tests represent merely a fraction of the number of suspicious cases reported during that period, many of which can be diagnosed on the spot without laboratory tests.

Slaughter Operations

Slaughter operations were carried out April 27 on one suspicious animal---an ox which had been vaccinated four times. Subsequent tests showed the disease to be neither foot-and-mouth disease nor vesicular stomatitis. However, because of the occurrence of the lesions suspicious of foot-and-mouth disease, it was considered advisable to slaughter the animal without delay, as a precautionary measure. This is the only slaughter carried out since January when fifteen animals, involved in the December outbreak in the State of Jalisco, were destroyed.

Overconfidence Presents Danger

Overconfidence is one of the greatest obstacles to be overcome during the current phase of the program. Reports that mass vaccinations will be terminated as well as the fact that no active infection has been discovered in Mexico since last December has led to a general public belief that the campaign is over and the disease is eradicated. This feeling could be extremely dangerous during the next few months when the successful completion of the program may very well depend upon constant vigilance and prompt action. The Commission is attempting to combat this hazard by issuing informative material describing the situation as it stands now and emphasizing the fact that the full cooperation of the Mexican people still is urgently needed.

COMPARSION OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Vaccine Production, Vaccination, Premises Disinfection

VACCINE PRODUCTION BEGINNING MAY 1948

VACCINATIONS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 1948

PREMISES DIS- INFECTED BEGINNING MAY 1949

	<u>Doses</u>
May	36,000
June	9,000
July	135,000
August	354,000
September	630,000
October	1,060,000
November	1,350,000
December	1,750,000
Total for 8 months	<u>5,324,000</u>

1949	
January	2,500,000
February	2,000,000
March	2,300,000
April	2,100,000
May	2,400,000
June	3,200,000
July	2,500,000
August	5,200,000
September	3,800,000
October	4,000,000
November	3,200,000
December	3,800,000
Total for 12 months	<u>37,000,000</u>

1950	
January	3,800,000
February	3,400,000
March	3,000,000
April	600,000
Total for 4 months	<u>10,800,000</u>
Grand total	<u>53,124,000</u>

Doses of vaccine purchased from Europe & South America	1,644,619
Above grand total	<u>53,124,000</u>
Total doses of vaccine made available to Commission through May 1950	<u>54,768,619</u>

	<u>Number</u>
February	25,000
March	35,000
April	132,158
May	128,875
June	67,329
July	47,671
August	105,169
September	87,185
October	461,238
November	711,511
December	959,391
Total for 11 months	<u>2,760,527</u>

1949	
January	1,775,186
February	1,738,360
March	2,404,970
April	2,830,514
May	3,664,943
June	3,336,429
July	2,970,056
August	3,502,342
September	3,009,203
October	3,251,133
November	4,201,233
December	5,010,199
Total for 12 months	<u>37,694,568</u>

1950	
January	5,052,811
February	2,932,949
March	2,816,943
April	3,190,904
May	3,388,714
Total for 5 months	<u>17,382,321</u>
Grand total	<u>57,837,416</u>

May	767
June	4,664
July	2,993
August	2,378
September	2,494
October	1,235
November	1,248
December	1,775
1950	
January	2,636
February	2,884
March	2,394
April	1,548
May	2,762

THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION IN MEXICO

JUNE 1, 1950

BASED ON REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

